

## SETS NEW MARK

Holiday Trade This Year the Biggest Ever Known.

Topeka Merchants Unite in Reporting a Heavy Increase.

SHOPPERS BUY BETTER GOODS

Never Spent So Much Money for Presents Before.

Bankers Unite in General Expression of Satisfaction.

When the dust was cleared away and the excitement of the holiday trade had subsided last Friday night Topeka merchants began to take stock. They found that the 1915 Christmas trade set a record that far overshadowed the business of former years. In some instances the increases were enormous.

One of the characteristics of the holiday season more than ever before was the desire for quality, the merchants say. From toys to household furnishings was this desire, the retailers' motto. Every buyer seemed to want the best. Of course there were many low-priced articles sold in the stores but a greater percentage of the holiday trade was for expensive products.

The fame of Kansas and Topeka prosperity is widespread. The holiday trade being full of money and the people prosperous? Everywhere I go that is all I hear.

The man expressed the general condition of the state which is manifested locally to a great extent. Robert Caldwell, assistant postmaster, stated that the business of the local office this year was about twenty-five per cent greater than ever before. The increase in the parcel post business was accounted for by the fact that the limit on parcel post packages has been raised from twenty to fifty pounds in the last year.

Merchants Are Satisfied.

Every business man on Kansas avenue today expressed himself as being entirely satisfied with the big increase in business this year over last.

Here are some expressions which will give an indication of the volume of business done in Topeka during the holiday season.

Fred Voland, of the Voland Clothing company—Fine trade. It came steady and with increasing proportions during the two weeks. Couldn't have been better.

S. L. Courtney, of the Courtney Millinery Parlors—The holiday business has been better this year. We have no fault to find.

William Connors—The holiday business this year was very good and we are completely satisfied with the big increase.

C. Emahiser, of the Emahiser and Spelman Furniture company—Our business was up to standard.

E. H. Crosby, of Crosby Brothers company—We haven't checked up yet and consequently cannot tell how big an increase there was in the holiday business this year over last. There was a considerable increase, however.

P. O. Hagan, of the Mills Stores company—The holiday business exceeded our expectations and we are satisfied.

David August, of the August Clothing Co.—Without exaggeration, the business we handled this year was 30 per cent ahead of anything we ever handled before. There was a remarkable increase in every department and I'm ready for a rest.

S. E. Cobb, vice president, Bank of Topeka—There was a big increase in pre-Christmas deposits and general business unquestionably was the best we have ever had.

H. G. Guthrie, assistant cashier Central National bank—Though our books haven't been gone over yet, it is very evident that we handled a much bigger business than we did last year.

J. E. Crockett—Better merchandise and more of it was bought this year than last.

Charles Mitchell, of Crane & Co.—We handled a big business last year, but we beat it this year.

H. G. West, cashier of the Farmers' National bank—Our business this year was at least a third larger than that of last year.

I. Felix of the Felix Clothing Co.—Our holiday business for this year shows a big increase over that of last year.

C. W. King of the Jenkins' Music Co.—

Co.—We handled a cracking good holiday business and are well pleased. Smith returned today from Green and Son Grocery Co.—Our holiday business was twenty per cent greater than that of last year.

J. Gertley of the Gertley Shoe Co.—Our business for the year shows a substantial increase over that of last year. Our holiday business increased at least 15 per cent.

Herman Greenbaum, of the Greenbaum Clothing and Suit Co.—Our Christmas business shows an increase of at least 20 per cent above that of last year.

W. W. Vanderhoff, manager Palace Clothing Co.—Our holiday business this year was much better than that of last year.

W. W. Whitney, of the Warren M. Crosby Co.—We're ahead of last year's holiday business but can't tell yet how far.

A. S. Thomas, of the Santa Fe Watch company—Both our local and out of town business was the best this year of any year in the history of the store. We are greatly pleased with the showing.

F. C. Gibbs, of the Gibbs Clothing Co.—Far ahead of any year's business in the history of our store.

Harry Nachtagal, Berklon Bros.—Business this year has been much the same as a year ago. On the whole the season has been wonderful. If every season is as good this year we will be perfectly satisfied.

The Outlook, Harry Endlich—We are splendidly pleased with the record made during 1915.

R. H. Morehouse—We're satisfied with the showing made during 1915. Especially this year has been much the same as a year ago.

Fred Morris, Morris & Meyers—Our trade has been exceedingly steady and good and we have tried to satisfy all.

W. J. Lewis—I think it the best year we have ever had. Our trade has been easily handled and most satisfactory.

I. Galitsky—We have enjoyed a very satisfactory holiday trade as well as a successful business throughout the year.

## KICK ON R. R. RATES

Illinois and Indiana Coal Operators Complain of Santa Fe.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Illinois and Indiana Coal Operators associations today complained to the U. S. C. E. that the rates on coal in Indiana and Illinois were unreasonable compared with the rates to the same points from mines in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

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## FOR WILSON IDEA

Speakers Express President's Pan-American Sentiment.

U. S. National Policy Identical With Monroe Doctrine.

HIS TELEGRAM READ TO BODY

Chilean Ambassador Replies to the President's Greeting.

Pays High Tribute to United States Executive.

Washington, Dec. 27.—A Pan-Americanism practically identical with that advocated by President Wilson in his message to congress was supported today by the speakers at the inaugural session of the Second Pan-American Scientific congress. A composite address of the twenty-two speakers made would leave the impression of general endorsement of the idea. Secretary of State Lansing in his capacity as an officer of the United States which invited the congress to meet here, as presiding officer of the governing board of the Pan-American union, discussed Pan-Americanism as an "international policy of the Americas" and we have tried to satisfy all.

W. J. Lewis—I think it the best year we have ever had. Our trade has been easily handled and most satisfactory.

I. Galitsky—We have enjoyed a very satisfactory holiday trade as well as a successful business throughout the year.

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## 700 SCIENTISTS MEET

A Week of "Highbrow" Discussion Is in Store.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 27.—Eminent scientists from all parts of the United States gathered here today for the sixty-eighth meeting of the American Association of Science and its affiliated societies. The first general session was presided over by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard university and retiring president of the association.

Throughout the week, hundreds of scientific papers will be read before the various sections of the association. The topics will be of the most advanced and of the most practical.

While most of the program is devoted entirely to lines of research with which the layman is unfamiliar, many subjects of public interest will be discussed.

Thursday has been set aside for the discussion of national defense and development. Among the speakers whose names appear on this section of the program are Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, and Henry A. Wise Wood, of New York. Secretary Daniels' paper on "The Importance of the National Policy of National Preparedness" will be read by another member as the secretary will be unable to attend.

Dr. Eliot is to be the principal speaker at tonight's session, his subject being "The National Policy of National Preparedness." After opening the meeting, he will introduce the new head of the association, William Wallace Campbell, of the University of California. It is expected that 700 scientists will attend the convention.

At the same time that members of the executive council were installed, chairmen of the various committees assumed their duties. They include the national committee, the Rev. J. P. Hicks and Miss Frances Waycott, prayer meeting committee, Miss Williams, chairman of the national committee, Miss Maude Waycott, chairman of the missionary committee and Mrs. W. O. Brown.

Chairmen received their appointments from the president of the association. They appoint other members to serve with them, however.

Wear Deceptions.

North Topeka stores are still wearing their Christmas decorations and are expected to continue to wear them during the week. They will consequently greet the new year with a show of new goods.

Following the pre-Christmas trade business slumped considerably today but North side merchants expect it to show its normal gain within a few days.

Notes and Personal.

Members of the Central Avenue Christian church, Christian Endeavor society will hold their regular monthly meeting tonight at the home of Miss Bessie Walker, of 1235 North Jackson street.

Mrs. Aaron Sheetz, of 1232 North Quincy street, is seriously ill. She has been confined to her bed since Saturday.

Noland Fitch, of the Campbell drug store, will return today from Clay Center to spend the regular monthly days at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Fitch.

Emporia where he spent several days with his parents.

Hermine Wetzel, of the Morris and Myers Grocery company, has returned today from her regular monthly days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wetzel, of Emporia.

D. Joseph was able to be at his store this morning after being confined to his home, 1003 North Jackson street, for a week with the grip.

M. Petro, of Des Moines, Adv. Sunday night for Danbury, Neb., where she will visit her daughter, Mrs. James Cleland, and other relatives and friends. She expects to be there several weeks.

H. H. Blair, of the Blair Stationary company, will leave January 4 for Florida to look after a farm which he has there. He expects to be away fifteen days.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Morris of North Topeka, are the parents of a son born Christmas morning.

Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Thompson and their young daughter, of 1919 North Jackson, are visiting friends and relatives in Junction. Both Doctor and Mrs. Thompson's parents reside there. They expect to visit them until after the first of the year.

Miss Maude Waycott has returned to her home, 1219 North Quincy street, after spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Waycott, at Emporia.

Students will leave the city today after spending several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Snedker, of 924 North Quincy street, are Maj. and Mrs. E. B. Mitchell, Miss Louise Mitchell and Henry Mitchell, of Independence, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Slayton, of Blue Springs, Mo.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hahn, George Hahn, Miss Mary Hahn, Jonathan Hahn, Mrs. W. H. Hahn, and Clifford Kay, of Kansas City, Mo. The guests were entertained at Christmas dinner Saturday evening.

All children of the primary department of the Kansas avenue Methodist Sunday school—primary department—will attend a primary Christmas party in the church parlors Tuesday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock.

SANTA FE NOTES

Engineer Evan Thomas and Mrs. Thomas are the parents of a daughter, born Wednesday, December 23.

Frank Swan, of the ticket auditor's office, and his mother, Mrs. Ann Swan, are spending the holidays with relatives in Kansas City.

Tommy, of the Santa Fe passenger department at Wichita, has returned after a short visit here with relatives and friends.

Miss Margaret Patch, daughter of Engineer and Mrs. Noah Patch is reported seriously ill.

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